

Remarks

The Official Action rejected claims 1-21. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 13-16, and 20; canceled claims 2, 4-7, 10, 17-19, and 21; and added new claims 22-26. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11-16, 20, and 22-26 remain pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the informal drawings filed on 10/15/2003 for examination purpose.

Claim Objections

The Official Action objected to claim 19. Applicant has canceled claim 19.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant believes the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome in view of the amendments shown above. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection of Applicant's specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Official Action rejected claims 1-12 and 15-21 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Garrity et al. (U.S. Patent 5,894,283). Applicant has amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1, 3, 8, and 9 be withdrawn.

As is well-established, in order to successfully assert a *prima facie* case of anticipation, the Official Action must provide a single prior art document that includes every element and limitation of the claim or claims being rejected. Therefore, if even one element or limitation is missing from the cited document, the Official Action has not succeeded in making a *prima facie* case.

Claim 1

Claim 1 requires **a voltage reference circuit to provide a reference differential voltage** at a first and second input port of a switched capacitor transformer and a functional unit coupled to a first and second output port of the switched capacitor transformer **to receive the reference differential voltage** and to operate based upon the reference differential voltage. The Official Action appears to rely on circuit of Fig. 6 of Garrity to teach limitations of claim 1.

Garrity simply appears to teach a stage of an analog-to-digital converter comprising a common mode sensing circuit (col. 6, lines 21-26) that periodically refreshes the sensing node to a desired input common mode voltage and outputs to a desired output common mode voltage. A typical high frequency analog-to-digital converter (ADC) comprises a plurality of pipe-lined stages and each stage (col. 4, lines 50-54) in turn may comprise an operational amplifier, a comparator, a common-mode sensing circuit, capacitors and switches. During the power-up or after a circuit disturbance (col. 5 line 59 through col. 6 line 2), the common-mode voltage levels at the inputs and outputs of the operational amplifier may exceed the dynamic range of the operational amplifier.

In order to maintain the operational amplifier at an optimum level within the dynamic range, the common mode sensing circuit periodically refreshes the voltage at the sensing node and the deviation from the desired common mode voltage level is fed back to input of the operational amplifier to stabilize the input and output common-mode voltage. Garrity does not teach **a voltage reference circuit to provide a reference differential voltage**, via switched capacitor transformer, to one or more functional units **to receive the reference differential voltage** and to operate based upon the reference differential voltage as required by claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 8, and 9

Each of claims 3, 8, and 9 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, each of claims 3, 8, and 9 is allowable for at least the reasons given above. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3, 8, and 9 be withdrawn.

Claims 11, 12, 15, 16 and 20

Each of claims 11, 12, 15, and 16 and 20 depend respectively from newly added claims 22 and 23. Accordingly, each of claims 11, 12, 15, and 16 and 20 is allowable for at least the reasons given below with reference to claims 22 and 23. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 11, 12, 15, and 16 and 20 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Official Action further rejected claims 13-14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garrity (US 5,894,283). Claims 13 and 14 depend from allowable claim 22. Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to claim 22.

Newly Added Claims

Newly added claims 22-26 include limitations not taught, disclosed or suggested by Garrity. In particular, Garrity does not teach **a voltage reference circuit to develop the reference voltage, a switched capacitor to deliver the reference voltage to a functional unit, and the functional unit to operate based upon the reference voltage** as required by claims 22 and 23. Garrity does not teach distributing the reference voltage generated by a voltage reference circuit to a functional unit via switched capacitor transformer. Applicant points out that Garrity appear to be dealing with maintaining the operational amplifier of an ADC stage at an optimum level within the operating range by periodically refreshing the sensing node using a common-mode sensing circuit. Again, additional points could be made in support of the allowance of claims 22-23. However, Applicant believes that in light of the above discussion such additional points are not needed at this time. Allowance of claims 22-23 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested, and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account number 02-2666. If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities, which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (503) 439-8778 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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On: June 21, 2005

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Rachael Brown

6/21/05
Date